within its Global Environment Facility (GEF), as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th February, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating the proposed field, location and G.E.F.'s contribution in each project;

(c) whether India has emerged as the largest Non-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor; if so, the contribution made so far to the UNDP by India during 1994, as compared to the last year; and

(d) how many projects have been approved so far or are in hand during 1993-94 period and likely to be set up in India by UNDP during 1994-95, please give details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Two projects have been approved by the Project Review Committee of UNDP in January, 1994 under GEF. The project documents are being formalised.

(b) The details of the projects are being firmed up.

(c) Yes, Sir. For the year 1994, India has pledged a contribution of Rs. 13.66 crores to UNDP as compared to the contribution of Rs. 12.92 crores made during the last year.

(d) Excluding the 2 GEF Projects, 12 Projects were approved during the year 1993 and only one project has so far been approved during 1994. The total number of projects posed and pending for approval of UNDP during 1993 and 1994 is 36. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the number of projects likely to be set up in India by UNDP during 1994-95.

Electronic Devices using Foreign Banks in India

823. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted to some foreign banks using latest electronic devices in their operations, to operate in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian banks are not using the latest electronic devices in their operations;

(c) if so, the reasons for grant of permission to foreign banks; and

(d) how Government propose to protect the interests of Indian banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that foreign banks operating in India are not required to obtain permission from than for use of electronic devices, such as, calculators, word processors, ledger posting machines, personal computers, mini computers, main frame computers etc. However, for installation and use of automated teller machines (ATMS), all banks including foreign banks are required to obtain permission from RBI.

(b) Indian banks are currently using a wide array of electronic devices such as calculators, display devices, word processors, advanced ledger posting machines, signature capture and retrieval systems, automated teller machines, personal computers, mini computers, main-frame computer systems etc. Besides, Indian banks are also using latest communication equipments.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

(d) Indian banks are free to use latest electronic equipments without any restrictions. Recently, Indian Banks Association have concluded an agreement with the employees' unions of banks which allow banks to fully computerise some of their branches. Besides, banks will now be free to use automatic note

counting machines, pass book printers and latest communication facilities made available by various networks available in India.

Excise Duty on Cars

824. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Automobile Industry has sought further reduction in excise duty on cars through a memorandum of the Association Indian Automobile Manufacturers;

(b) if so, what are the pertinent points in their memorandum; and

(c) whether the Ministry has given any assurance to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pre-budget memorandum has been received from the Indian Automobile Manufacturers Association. In so far as excise duty on cars is concerned the Association has requested for reduction in excise duty from 40% to 25%.

(c) No, Sir.

Violation of RBI Guidelines by Foreign Banks

825. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in agreement with the view of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on irregularities in securities and banking transactions that foreign banks operating in India have taken a leading part in violating Reserve Bank of India guidelines and the banks laws of their own countries;

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken against these banks and their functionaries; and

(c) the steps that are under contemplation to prevent foreign banks from repeating their irregular and illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee including those relating to foreign banks are under examination of the Government.

Nexus between Industrial Houses, Bankers and Brokers

826. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the impression formed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee about the existence of a close nexus between industrial houses, bankers and brokers;

(b) whether according to Government's view, such a nexus is conducive to accelerating the process of economic growth; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken to discourage nexus of this nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The observations/recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee are being examined by the Government and action wherever called for will be taken including on the issue raised in the Question.

गुजरात में सरकारी मिलों के लिए ऋण

827. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने राज्य में प्रस्तावित सहकारी मिलों की स्थापना के लिए केन्द्रीय वित्तीय